

# CENTRAL MEXICO YOUTH FUND NEWSLETTER

Website: [centralmexicoyouthfund.org](http://centralmexicoyouthfund.org)

Helping young Mexicans get a quality education and lead productive lives

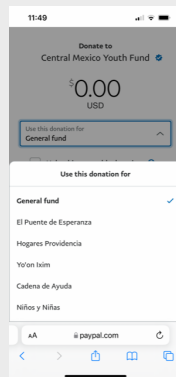
## Looking Ahead

Juliet and Charles recently visited our partners in Querétaro. They continued to support beneficiaries during the pandemic and are now looking ahead to the resumption of in-person school activities in early 2022.



Your donations to the Central Mexico Youth Fund allow us to support our network of vetted partners, three of which are highlighted in this newsletter. There are various ways to make a donation:

- Visit our website [centralmexicoyouthfund.org](http://centralmexicoyouthfund.org) and click “donate” to use PayPal or your credit card. If you wish to donate directly to a specific partner, a drop-down menu (see image below) allows you to do so.
- Send funds with a checking account using Zelle to [centralmexicoyouthfund@gmail.com](mailto:centralmexicoyouthfund@gmail.com).
- Mail a check to Central Mexico Youth Fund, 3062 Summit Sky Blvd, Eugene, OR 97405.
- If you wish to make a contribution from a retirement account as part of a required minimum distribution or make a gift of appreciated stock, contact us for details.



We are recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, so your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. GuideStar has awarded us a silver seal of approval in acknowledgment of our transparency.

Central Mexico Youth Fund

## In Her Own Words

*María Fernanda is 20 and a beneficiary of El Puente de Esperanza. She is studying elementary education. The following is an excerpt from a profile she recently wrote:*

“Stop the world, I want to get off!”  
— Mafalda

In the El Puente house, they say I’m like Mafalda from the comics. I didn’t know about her and they gave me a book to read her story, but I haven’t had much time to look at it. I don’t know if I resemble her because of my tousled hair, my intense eyes, or because I’m always so contrary, ha! But I suppose it’s for the last reason.



I’m a person with a strong personality and definite ideas. I’m not very diplomatic and if I think something, I’ll say it to your face without hesitation. This can be a problem if you’re living in a group house. When I got to El Puente, I had to learn to soften many aspects of myself. Living here teaches me every day to develop patience and tolerance and to respect the opinions of others, even if they are different than mine. It’s not always easy. Sometimes the Mafalda within me becomes a tiny “General”, but little by little I’ve learned to control myself and channel my reactions. I attribute this mostly to living with my housemates, or to put it another way, my 20 sisters and brothers.



## Hard at Work

Our partner Niños and Niñas offers a preschool program, assistance with homework and a nutritious meal to more than 80 children and adolescents who come from indigenous families that have moved to Querétaro from their home communities throughout Mexico.

Even when obliged to close for two months during the height of the pandemic, the organization continued to support the families of these kids by providing free groceries and household supplies.



The children were kept busy with their schoolwork during the pandemic. Their schools sent the kids' lessons and homework assignments to the group's Director. The teachers at Niños and Niñas then made sure the kids had access to both online instruction and written exercises.



We are able to help our partners offer educational opportunities like these thanks to your generous support!

Central Mexico Youth Fund

## Celebrating Día de Muertos

During their recent trip to Querétaro, Juliet and Charles had the opportunity to meet with some of the dedicated staff at Hogares Providencia. Their efforts make it possible to offer a home and care to 35 girls and boys who live in one of the three houses operated by the group. These children face difficult family circumstances and have been placed at Hogares Providencia by the local social service agency.



The celebration of holidays is one way to help these vulnerable children feel like part of a community. Made famous throughout the world by the movie *Coco*, Día de Muertos is observed throughout Mexico to both honor friends and family who have passed and to remind us all of the value of our own lives.

It's a festive occasion and one of its tradition is to construct a decorative altar at home that commemorates the lives of loved ones. The children at Hogares Providencia created all of the decorations shown here including the *papel picado*, which is made by cutting designs into sheets of tissue paper. This altar honors the lives of the group's founder and family members of the children.

